2

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method for interconnecting a first location on a global communication network with a second location thereon, comprising the steps of:

providing an input device coupled to the first location on the global communication network, the input device having associated therewith a unique input device ID that is permanently associated with the input device and independent of the first location;

scanning a product code disposed on a product with the input device, which product code is representative of the product in commercial transactions, the step of scanning operable to extract the information contained in the product code to provide a unique value as an output;

associating the unique value with the unique input device ID in a message packet, such that the unique device ID is associated with the message packet for transmission over the network and wherein the second location has a predetermined association with the combination of the unique value and the unique input device ID, such predetermined association associates the second location with both the unique device ID and the unique value ; and

in response to the step of scanning and the step of associating, connecting the first location to the second location.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of connecting to the second location comprises:

in response to the step of scanning and the step of associating, accessing a database having stored therein a plurality of unique values for a plurality of products, each associated with routing information over the global communication network to one of the plurality of second locations;

comparing the output unique value with the stored unique values in the database; and

if a match exists between the output unique value and any of the stored unique values:

retrieving from the database the associated routing information to the second location,

3

and

connecting the first location to the second location on the global communication network in accordance with the retrieved routing information.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein the unique value comprises a binary value.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 22, wherein the product code comprises a universal product code (UPC) as associated with a product indicating information regarding the product for use in commercial transactions associated with that product.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 23, wherein the step of accessing the database comprises the steps of:

accessing a remote location on the global communication network at an intermediate node thereon;

forwarding the unique value and unique device ID to the intermediate node;

wherein the database is disposed at the intermediate node; and

retrieving the associated routing information from the database in the event of a positive mach and forwarding the retrieved routing information back to the first location and connecting the first location to the second location in accordance with the retrieved information.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The Method of Claim 23, wherein the second location represents product information associated with the product.